AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims replaces all prior versions of claims in the application.

LISTING OF THE CLAIMS:

Claim 1 (Currently Amended): A sound reproducing apparatus, comprising:

a recording means for recording into a recording medium a data file in which a sound signal encoded in a first format and a first decoding program according to said first format are stored;

a storing means for storing a second decoding program according to a second format;

a determining means for determining whether or not [[a]] said first format agrees between of said sound signal is coincident with and said second format of said second decoding program;

a validating means for validating one of said first decoding program and said second decoding program on the basis of a determination result of said determining means;

a decoding means for decoding said sound signal by the decoding program validated by said validating means; and

an outputting means for outputting the decoding sound signal decoded by said decoding means.

Claims 2-8 (Cancelled).

Claim 9 (Currently Amended): A sound reproducing apparatus, comprising:

an attacher for detachably attaching a recording medium on which a sound signal encoded in a first format and a first decoding program according to said first format are recorded;

a storage for storing a second decoding program according to a second format;

a determiner for determining whether or not [[a]] said first format agrees between of said sound signal is coincident with and said second format of said second decoding program;

a validater for validating one of said first decoding program and said second decoding program on the basis of determination of result of said determiner;

a decoder for decoding said sound signal by the decoding program validated by said validater; and

an outputter for outputting a decoded sound signal decoded by said decoder; wherein

said decoder carries out a first number-of-bit operation,

said recording medium records said first decoding program corresponding to said first number-of-bit operation and said second decoding program corresponding to a second number-of-bit operation,

said validater loads said first decoding program corresponding to said first number-of-bit operation from said recording medium when said determination result represents disagreement, wherein said second decoding program is not recorded on said recording medium.

Claim 10 (Cancelled).